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Ethiopia

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Introduction

1. The Government of Ethiopia presented its first cycle Universal Periodic Report (UPR) in 2009 and has been implementing the accepted recommendations. Ethiopia has also presented reports to treaty bodies.

Follow-up and implementation of UPR recommendations

2. This Report provides updates on implementation of the accepted UPR recommendations and the progress achieved since the last report. A national consultative workshop, co-organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) with the technical assistance of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, East Africa Regional Office, was held in December 2010 aimed at awareness raising and implementation of the accepted recommendations. **(Recommendation 2, 96 and 98)**

3. The Government has taken measures to successfully implement the UPR recommendations, including additional legislative measures to further strengthen the institutions that play central role in the protection and promotions of human rights. The adoption of the National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP) by the House of Peoples' Representatives (HPR) is one such successful measure. **(Recommendation 3 and 98)**

Methodology of report preparation

4. The National Human Rights Steering Committee established a team, composed of mid-level officials, to coordinated the reporting process and prepare this report. The Government conducted consultations with stakeholders to obtain information and solicit observations and suggestions, which are used to prepare this report. The team organized a Consultative Workshop and National validation Workshop with the participation of all relevant stakeholders, including government organs and civil society groups.

Constitutional guarantee of human rights

5. The Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) is the foundation of the human rights protection and the basis to build the country's democratic system. The Constitution, under Article 9(4) provides that international agreements ratified by Ethiopia form an integral part of the law of the land and under Article 13 enshrines the responsibility of all branches of Government to respect and ensure respect the fundamental rights and freedoms.

National legislations

6. The House of Peoples' Representatives (Ethiopia's Federal legislative organ) enacted laws to further strengthen the human rights system of the country. **(Recommendation 9, 11)** The most significant federal legislative acts include:

- Anti-Terrorism Proclamation No. 652/2009;
- A Proclamation to Provide for the Electoral Code of Conduct for Political Parties No. 662/2009);

- Proclamation to Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability No. 676/2010;
- Federal Judicial Administration Council Establishment Proclamation (as Amended) No. 684/2010;
- Social Health Insurance: Proclamation No. 690/2010;
- Proclamation to Ratify Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children Ratification No. 737/2012;
- Registration of Vital Events and National Identity Card Proclamation: No. 760/2012;
- Proclamation to Ratify International Development Association Financing Agreement for Financing Women Entrepreneurship Development Project Ratification: No. 764/2012;
- Proclamation to Ratify International Development Association Amended and Restated Financing Agreement to Provide Additional Finance to Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Project Ratification No. 765/2012.

National policies, strategies and plans

7. Ethiopia has adopted national policies and strategies, which sets the platform for economic development and political transformation. The Government is implementing the Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP) for 2010-2015, which sets a medium-term vision to transform the nation a middle-income economy where, through the participation and free will of the people, democratic rule, good-governance and social justice reigns while simultaneously extricating itself from poverty. It addresses economic, social justice and good governance issues.

8. Ethiopia has registered high economic growth over the last ten consecutive years 2002/3-2012/13 with an annual average growth rate of GDP of 10.9 %. The agriculture has thus far been the engine of the Ethiopian economy. One of the strategic directions devised under the GTP is ensuring the productivity of smallholder agriculture by improving agricultural practices. The agriculture, industry and service sectors' annual average growth was 9.3%, 12.2% and 12.4 % respectively. Ethiopia aims to continue to expand the infrastructural development of its road network, railways, energy, telecommunication, potable water supply and irrigation development, urban and construction development for economic growth, employment creation and social welfare. The Government has putted in place plans to realize accelerated and sustained economic growth that contributed to poverty eradication and achievement of MDGs such as reduction in child mortality, access to schools and provision of health services to the public. The stable macroeconomic environment in the country and the double-digit growth has contributed to the advancement of human rights in the country.

Criminal justice policy

9. In 2010, the Government issued an enhanced criminal justice policy to ensure the peace and security of its citizens and to advance and strengthen democracy and good governance. The Policy maps out a national strategy of crime prevention aimed at improving crime investigation and prosecution and to ensure the efficiency and fairness of the criminal justice process. It aims to ensure access to justice, speedy and fair judicial processes and due process for the accused, especially vulnerable groups and juvenile

offenders strengthens the respect for individual rights and freedoms. **(Recommendation 10)**

National Human Rights Action Plan

10. The Government of Ethiopia adopted the NHRAP to develop a comprehensive and structural mechanism to advance the respect, protection and fulfilment of human and democratic rights guaranteed by the Constitution. It was developed through consultative meetings and workshops to augment the participation of governmental organisations, civil societies and the public at large. It reviews the human rights situation in the country, identifies potential problems, and sets feasible solutions. It addresses civil and political, economic, social and cultural rights as well as the rights of vulnerable groups and the right to clean environment and the right to development. An NHRAP Affairs Coordinating Committee composed of six Ministries and the Human Rights Commission is established at a Ministerial level, to lead, supervise and manage the monitoring and evaluation sections established at the Federal and Regional levels. **(Recommendation 3 and 97)**

Democracy and good governance

11. National elections were held in accordance with the law to encourage public participation in decision-making, which is also effected through the involvement of associations and individual citizens. Various types of associations are formed that work to protect the interests of the groups they represent.

12. The National Electoral Board of Ethiopia (NEBE) has conducted free and fair elections in Federal and State constituencies. Since its establishment, the NEBE has conducted four national elections: by-elections, local elections and referendum. Elections were conducted to elect members of the House of People's Representatives and State Councils. A total of 547 constituencies and around 43,500 polling stations were in place to conduct elections throughout the Country. The HPR regularly facilitates forums and make public calls to all stakeholders to comment on or discuss and make recommendations on draft laws proposed for adoption. **(Recommendation 64)**

13. The Government launched national program on good governance, which focuses on public service management. The establishment of the Ministry of Civil Service has been an important milestone in strengthening the good governance structure. This Ministry is tasked with implementing the Citizen's Charter, which is issued to serve as a guidebook to make the services provided by civil servants more transparent, effective and efficient, rendering them accountable to the public and enabling citizens to be aware of their rights.

Institutional framework

Ethiopian Human Rights Commission

14. The Commission has opened branch offices in the Amhara, Oromia, Gambella, Somali, Tigray and the Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples National Regional States. The Commission has also translated human rights instruments into Amharic, Oromiffa, Tigrigna, Somali and Afar languages. **(Recommendation 4, 5 and 8)**

The Institution of the Ombudsman

15. The Institution of the Ombudsman has made enormous contributions to the strengthening of good governance, including by inquiring into claims of abuse of power by the executive. The institution has also been receiving a growing number of administrative complaints from the public as a sign of the growing confidence of citizens on the institution. It has been successfully using the media to raise public awareness. **(Recommendation 5)**

The Federal Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission

16. The Federal Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (FEACC) has been working on the prevention, investigation, and prosecution of crimes of corruption. For instance, in the year 2009/10 the FEACC received 2915 tip-offs and complaints of which only 1584 were under its jurisdiction and 405 of are under investigation. FEACC's conviction rate for the year 2009/10 stood at 96.6 percent. Seven of the nine Regional States have also established their own anti-corruption commissions.

Judicial bodies

17. The Supreme, High and First Instance courts at the Federal Regional levels, in their functions, continued upholding the impartiality and independence of the courts and serving as the basis for the protection of human rights. They are assisted by Judicial Administration Councils at the Federal and Regional levels established pursuant to Proclamation No. 684/2010. The Councils administer the appointment of judges, draft and enforce disciplinary code of conduct for judges, decide on the placement, transfer, salary, allowance, promotion and medical benefits of judges. Moreover, the Licensing Procedures for Advocates and a Code of Conduct for both advocates and public prosecutors further strengthens the administration of justice. **(Recommendation 11)**

18. The Federal Supreme Court established, the Child Justice Project Office (CJPO) with the objective of ensuring that the laws and practices of the country are consistent with the Constitution and international instruments on the rights of the child ratified by Ethiopia. It further contributes to the administration of child justice in the country. Federal and Regional courts in both civil and criminal benches introduced child-friendly settings entertaining cases involving children as parties, victims or witnesses. The settings are informal, supported by new technologies and social workers to assist children with the view to making the system less intimidating and child friendly. The Project Office has recently established Legal Protection Centre for Children, which facilitates the provision of free legal aid and psychosocial service through a referral system. Accordingly, 4000 children, of which 2607 children benefited from the legal aid with respect to civil cases, 973 children with criminal law cases benefited from the legal aid for juvenile offenders and 532 have been given psychosocial service since the Centre began its operation in 2013. **(Recommendation 12)**

Vital Events Registration Agency

19. A Proclamation on the Registration of Vital Events and National Identity Cards has been issued to create a mechanism for the registration of vital events in the country and to store data properly. The Council of Ministers issued Regulation No. 278/2005 establishing the Vital Events Registration Agency accountable to the Ministry of Justice. The Agency has started its work by gathering data regarding birth, death, marriage, divorce and

declaration of absence that were scattered in different institutions. The Agency is also working with Regional Governments to establish similar agencies in all regions to effectively register vital events. A National Council has been established to oversee and coordinate the works of the Agency. **(Recommendation 43)**

International legal obligations and commitments

20. Ethiopia has ratified the International Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on 7 July 2010. **(Pending Recommendation 1 and Recommendation 11)**

21. Ethiopia has submitted reports under the International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Covenant on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. **(Recommendation 14)**

Civil and political rights

Freedom of religion

22. The major religious groups in Ethiopia have established an Inter-Religious Council in January 2010, to enable religious institutions advance their faith freely without infringing anyone's Constitutional rights, while maintaining religious tolerance, promoting a culture of peace through religious participation. The Council has organized several awareness-creation conferences; including one national and two regional consultative and experience-sharing workshops with the participation of 870 religious leaders and faith-based organizations (FBO). These workshops focused on issues related to harmful traditional practices such as female genital mutilation, HIV and AIDS, and maternal and youth reproductive health.

23. Adherents of the various religions have also freely exercised their right to establish institutions of religious education, and to publish and disseminate religious books, newspapers and magazines. In addition, in strict conformity with the Constitutional principle of separation of state and religion, all religious institutions are able to elect their leaders using their internal regulations. Moreover, the Government has addressed administrative grievances submitted by the followers of different religions and resolved them peacefully. The Ministry of Federal Affairs facilitated consultations in 2010 among leaders of the Christian and Muslim communities to resolve a particular problem in one locality. **(Recommendation 50)**

Freedom of expression and assembly

24. The Constitution promotes a free mass media by prohibiting censorship. The Freedom of Mass Media and Access Information Proclamation, which creates enabling conditions to nurture free and independent mass media, provides that citizens have the right to create and establish mass media services. This Proclamation also provides that any person or entity possessing a nation-wide broadcasting license may not exercise control over another company holding such a license in the same or an overlapping market. This

legislative measure is taken with the view to ensuring the diversity and pluralism of opinion in the overall mass media platform. **(Recommendations 61 and 62)**

25. With a conviction that the country needs to diversify its broadcasting infrastructure, the Government allocated significant amount of budget to launch 12 additional TV channels so that citizens would enjoy the plurality of opinions. The Government also issued Regulations and directives on the operation of mass media. These include the Directives on: the Commercial Radio Broadcasting Services, the Community Radio Broadcasting Service, the Broadcasting Service Grievance Handling and Subscription Broadcasting Service. Federal public relations officers have received training on these directives and a mechanism for notification procedures for the media has been developed. In the past four years, eight public and five private media organs obtained broadcasting licenses as well as sixteen public and private newspapers and twenty-six magazines have also joined the mass media market. Community-based radio stations that broadcast programs in local languages have also started to provide broadcasting services. **(Recommendation 60)**

26. The Government has established a national task force, spearheaded by the Institution of the Ombudsman and composed of the relevant Government offices, to oversee the implementation of the Proclamation to Provide for Freedom of the Mass Media and Access to Information No. 590/2008 that guarantees all persons the right to seek, obtain and communicate any information held by public bodies. Various draft legislations are prepared to implement the Proclamation, including the Protected Disclosure Proclamation, Classified Information Protection Proclamation and Regulation to provide Fees to Access Information are the main ones. The Institution of the Ombudsman organized training for 4399 individuals including Government officials, public relation officers and journalists. Baseline survey on the current status of the provision of information by the Government was conducted in cooperation Justice and Legal Systems Research Institute. **(Recommendation 61)**

27. In February 2009, the Government of Ethiopia issued the Charities and Societies Proclamation, which aims at strengthening the role of non-governmental organizations and enhancing their contribution in the socio-economic development of the country. This law was adopted following public discussion involving NGOs and relevant stakeholders. The Charities and Civil Societies Agency has been tasked with registration, licensing, and supervising the application of the law and building a transparent and accountable framework. On average of 332 NGOs sought registration each year since the adoption of the Proclamation. Currently, there are over 3000 national and international non-governmental organizations operating freely in Ethiopia. Human Rights defenders were registered as civil societies and the necessary legal protection has been accorded. The Proclamation is also provides a legal and conducive working environment for non-governmental organizations. **(Recommendation 51, 53, 54 and 55)**

Freedom from arbitrary arrest and detention

28. The necessary legal framework has been established to guarantee citizens the freedom from arbitrary arrest as provided in the Constitution and no person may be detained without a charge or conviction against him. Awareness creation trainings were given to the members of the police and defense forces by EHRC on how to prevent arbitrary arrest and detention. Prison and detention centers have been monitored by the EHRC, and the Ministry of Justice who are tasked with ensuring that citizens would neither be detained for political reasons nor imprisoned arbitrarily. **(Recommendation 58, 62 and 63)**

Respect for the due process of law while countering terrorism

29. The Anti-Terrorism Proclamation empowers the House of Peoples' Representatives, upon submission by the Government, to proscribe and de-proscribe a group as a terrorist organization after assessing as to whether a particular group will pose a threat to the safety and security of the country and the population. No organization will be proscribed unless the House reaches a conclusion following debate and vote taking into account the security of the nation and citizens' freedom of expression and assembly. **(Recommendation 91)**

30. The Government has undertaken efforts to make the public aware of the challenges of terrorism, in its role to ensure both the security of the nation as well as the citizen's right to expression and assembly. The Government has extended educational campaigns on the principles of due process in the context of criminal and constitutional law, for example, on the presumption of innocence, the right to a hearing; guarantee to be tried within a reasonable timeframe, the right to be tried by a competent, independent and impartial court, and the right to appeal a conviction. The Supreme Court has repeatedly upheld the importance of these Constitutional guarantees. **(Recommendation 91)**

Engagement with civil societies

31. The Prime Minister and other senior Government officials have held discussions with civil societies including youth and women associations and the business community and have addressed their demands. The EHRC has been collaborating with civil society organizations in providing free legal aid services, promoting human rights, conducting research related to human rights issues and publications, including through a Memorandum of Understanding signed with civil society. The EHRC has also been providing financial support for projects undertaken by universities and civil societies. **(Recommendation 52)**

The 2010 elections

32. The Constitution and the Amended Electoral Law together with other election-related Regulations have provided a legal framework for the conduct of genuine elections in line with Ethiopia's international commitments. In accordance with the Constitution, the National Electoral Board is free from any influence and is able to conduct free and fair elections at the Federal and Regional levels. The Amended Electoral law provides that members of the Board shall be loyal to the Constitution, non-partisan, professionally competent, and able to conduct their activities in a manner befitting their status. The 2010 election was essentially characterized by active participation of all political actors and the creation of favourable conditions for all political parties to freely and equally convey their alternatives to the public.

33. The four major political parties drafted and endorsed the Electoral Code of Conduct that was improved and endorsed unanimously by all parties and was finally enacted as a Proclamation by the House of Peoples' Representatives. **(Recommendation 64)**

34. There were 79 political organizations that registered and obtained certificates from the Board. Among these political organizations, 23 operate at the National level, while the remaining 56 operate at Regional States. The Government has provided equal access to free airtime on the public radio and television stations and columns in newspapers to the political parties participating in the elections. All political parties have been given air time based on, their seat within Federal and Regional legislatures. To ensure the Constitutional guarantees of freedom of expression and public participation, the Board has put in place mechanisms to facilitate the provision of all the necessary information to the media from

the political parties. Political parties have also been allowed to organize demonstrations. In accordance with the revised Political Parties Registration Proclamation, a regulation on the financial assistance to be given to political parties has been issued and implemented by the Government. **(Recommendation 59)**

35. There were also institutional measures taken by the Board to ensure free and fair elections. The Board organized capacity building trainings and seminars for voters, election officials, election observers, political parties, the media, legal and administrative officials. The Board accredited the Ethiopian Civil Societies Association to assign election observers in polling stations and has given their observers trainings. Trainings were also given on the code of conduct, the civics and ethical standards as well as voter's education to ensure the loyalty of election officials and voters to the Constitution. The national election in 2010 was free and fair and met national and international standards. It was held with high public participation, which was further enhanced through the participation of associations and individual citizens in election observation. **(Recommendations 64 and 65)**

36. The Grievance Hearing Committees (GHC), as part of the Board, was established at regional, constituency and polling station levels by the Proclamation. These Committees are composed of three members, the head of the respective electoral office and two public observers. The GHC deal with complaints concerning voter registration, candidate registration, voting, counting and results. Complaints relating to the voting process should be lodged at the polling station to the GHC, which shall decide immediately on the complaint. In the event that a polling station GHC refuses to accept a complaint, the complainant may proceed to the constituency level GHC. Decisions taken at the constituency level may be appealed against at the Board, whose decisions in turn can be challenged before the Federal Supreme Court. Around 129 complaints were logged under this mechanism by political parties and solutions were provided by the Board in 2010 General Elections. Judges, prosecutors, and police have been trained on election law, the ethics of elections and directives on the handling of election related grievances. **(Recommendation 66)**

Economic, social and cultural rights

General overview

37. The Government has demonstrated its commitment to eradicate poverty and ensure the realization of economic, social and cultural rights in Ethiopia by implementing its plans, forging partnerships with relevant stakeholders. New laws aimed at improving social, economic and cultural rights of the people were adopted including: the Public Servants' Pension Proclamation, the Private Organization Employees' Pension Proclamation and the Social Health Insurance Proclamation. These Proclamations protect the rights of civil servants and employees within the private sector to retirement /pension allowance and related benefits. **(Recommendation 71 and 74)**

38. Moreover, the Nation, Nationalities and Peoples of Ethiopia have the Constitutional right to speak, write and develop their own language; express, develop their culture and preserve their history. Significant efforts have been undertaken to preserve heritage and cultural sites in many parts of the country. The Government has undertaken activities to strengthen intercultural/religious dialogue, to foster mutual understanding of heritage and the sharing of common values with a view of contributing towards social progress and social cohesion. It has been implementing policies and legal frameworks for the protection and safeguarding of Ethiopia's natural, and tangible, intangible cultural heritage. **(Recommendation 9)**

39. The Government has designed several strategies to engage in public sector reform and Business Process Reengineering (BPR). The Federal Government provided support to emerging regional administrations that need special attention. Training and orientation seminars were provided to the Federal and Regional civil service employees to increase efficiency and enable them to respond to the challenges. Between 2008/9 to 2012/13 as much as 5010 civil servants were enrolled at the Ethiopian Civil Service University and earned certification and advanced degrees. **(Recommendation 6)**

40. The Government is implementing the GTP build on earlier sustainable development and poverty reduction programs. In the agricultural sector, training sessions for farmer and scientifically researched high yield technologies were introduced yielding encouraging results. In 2010, 52,023 agricultural extension workers were deployed and 5.09 million households benefited from agricultural extension services. In 2011, 9.04 million households benefited from the program. There were 7,748,305 beneficiaries who were able to participate in the productive safety net program in 2011, and 1.8 million food self-sufficient beneficiaries graduated from the Household Asset Building Program. **(Recommendation 71 and 74)**

41. The economy has experienced strong and broad-based growth over the past decade; which resulted in positive trends that reduced poverty, in both urban and rural areas. The proportion of people living below the poverty line in Ethiopia has declined from 38.7% in 2004-2005, to 27.8 in 2011/12. The poverty targeted growth oriented expenditure increased from 47.3 billion in 2009/10 to 87.6 billion in 2011/12; which is about 70.4% of total Government spending. The increment in spending on growth oriented pro poor sectors reflects Ethiopia's commitment to eradicate overall poverty. The per capita income has increased from USD 377 in 2009/10 to USD 513 in 2011/12. The integrated development, the micro and small-scale enterprise development programs have been used as a tool to fight the unemployment in cities and urban centers. The Government was able to generate employment for 2,681,367 job seekers in the year 2010/11-2012/13. From this 1,556,821 are permanent and 1,124,546 are temporary jobs. The large-scale projects undertaken by the Government created jobs to 1,283,254 people. 60.3% of the urban population in 2010/11, were economically active and this has increased to 62.5% in 2011/12. The measures taken in the urban areas have helped decrease the urban unemployment rate from 18% in 2010 to 17.5% in 2011 while youth unemployment declined from 23.7 to 23.3% in the same period. **(Recommendation 67)**

42. With the view of building its capacity in the field of education, infrastructure, health, housing, agriculture and ensuring food security, the Government requested technical assistance from international, regional and non-Governmental organizations. In this regard the technical assistance provided by financial institutions such as the World Bank, African Development Bank and Arab Bank were commendable. **(Recommendation 70)**

43. In order to connect the capital city and Regional States and various administrative zones a total of 7,397 km roads were constructed in the year 2010/11 and 2011/12. Hence, Federal and Regional road network increased from 48,793 km in 2009/10 to 56,190 km in 2011/12. Moreover, all-weather road network at Woreda level increased from 845 km in 2010/11 to 10,219 km in 2011/12. The average time required to reach to an all-weather road decreased from 3.5 hours in 2010/11 to 2.9 hours in 2011/12.

44. Consistent with the GTP, the Government of Ethiopia has maintained a significant level of cooperation with the international community. Currently, there are more than 73 of such cooperative projects with international and regional financial institutions aimed at poverty reduction, estimated to be more than USD 8.48 billion. The Government anticipates that this level of cooperation with the international community would be maintained to solidify its efforts to continue sustained poverty reduction. **(Recommendation 75)** There are also constructive partnerships between the Government and NGOs, international

organizations, including the United Nations, which provides food and medical assistances. **(Recommendation 72)**

Food security

45. Ethiopia has implemented policies, and programs vital to the agricultural sector. The integration of disaster prevention and preparedness operations has successfully ensured food security for 76.2 million people. The area covered by the major crops has increased from 13.16 million hectares in 2009/10 to 13.69 million hectares in 2011/12. The production of major crops has increased from 202.46 million quintals in 2009/10 to 232.44 million quintals in 2011/12. The average productivity of the major crops increased from 15.38 quintals/hectare in 2009/10 to 17.0 quintals /hectare in 2011/12. The Government in cooperation with other partners and stakeholders improved agricultural production and food security, including scaling up a disaster reduction support program already in place. The comprehensive five-year national program on Disaster Risk Management intends to reduce the risks and impacts of disasters through the establishment of a comprehensive and integrated disaster risk management system. **(Recommendations 69 and 73)**

Potable water supply and programs for conservation of land and water resources

46. Ethiopia has made significant progress in integrating the principle of sustainable development into the country's development policies and programs. In order to upgrade the land and water resources, the Government has engaged in watershed management activities, environmental protection and rehabilitation programs, aimed at enhancing the country's water resources and safeguarding these resources from pollution. Farmers have also voluntarily spent on average 40 to 50 days working on soil and water conservation program in 2011/12, covering approximately 8.5 million hectares of land throughout the country. **(Recommendation 69)**

47. In order to improve access to safe drinking water, the Government undertook several measures to increase national water coverage in the country from 52.12% in 2010/11 to 68.4 in 2012/13. For the same period, the rural and urban water supply coverage increased from 48.85 to 66.5 and 74.64 to 81.3 respectively. During the period 2011-2013 about 50,750 rural and 128 urban water supply projects were implemented. About 9,409 schools and 4,565 health institutions were provided access to safe water supply. **(Recommendation 71)**

Education

48. The Government has given high priority to the right to education and has allocated ever-increasing resources in the sector with the view to realizing it. The primary strategic direction of the education sector is to ensure equitable access to quality education at all levels. Primary education is free to all citizens, and all children of school age are strongly encouraged to attend school. In 2011, primary education was provided in more than 25 local languages. In the early 1990s, Gross Enrolment Rate in primary schools was only 32%. This figure rose to 96.4% by 2010/11. The number of students enrolled in primary schools increased from 15.8 million in 2009/10 to 16.7 million in 2010/11 and then to 17 million in 2011/12. This progress in education demonstrates that a sustained Government-led effort to reduce poverty and expand the public education system equitably, backed by sufficient resources and improved service delivery, can dramatically increase school enrolment. **(Recommendation 81, 83 and 86)**

49. The Government has increased accessibility to secondary schools, building of new schools and equipping them with necessary inputs both in urban and rural areas. The number of elementary schools increased from 26951 in 2009/10 to 29482 in 2011/12, whereas the number of secondary schools increased from 1517 in 2010/11 to 1711 in 2011/12. **(Recommendation 86)** Moreover, the Government introduced Technical and Vocational Education (TVET) which plays a vital role in producing and meeting the demand for middle level skills of the different industries and support the expansion of micro and small enterprises in the country. In 2009/10 and 2010/11 the number of trainees attending TVET programs were 353,420 and 371,347, respectively. The number of undergraduate participation in higher education increased from 420,387 in 2009/10 to 491,871 in 2011/12, further expanding the participation in higher education.

50. To improve the literacy rate of girls and women, the Government has been implementing programs, including non-formal and adult education. In 2011/12 the number of participants in the adult functional education program was 2.1 million persons (1.3 million male and 810 thousand female). Ethiopia is showing progress in addressing gender disparity at all levels of its educational system. The gender disparities in primary and secondary schools have continued to decline throughout the years, reaching 0.93 and 0.79 respectively in 2011. Gender parity at the tertiary education level has improved from 0.22 in 1991 to 0.36 in 2010; the gender parity is even lower at 0.1 at graduate school. The Government has implemented an affirmative action program and reduced the entrance requirements for women in higher learning institutions, on each field of study. 30 % quota is reserved for girls, resulting an increase in girls' participation from 24 % in 2002/03 to 25.6% in 2010/11. Moreover, the Government provided tutorial classes, life skill trainings and financial supports for the students who are in need of such supports. There is also affirmative action for students with disability and students from emerging regions. **(Recommendation 22, 24, 82 and 85)**

51. Key priority of the education sector development program is to improve and ensure the quality and efficiency of education at all levels. The Government has already started implementing a strategic General Education Quality Improvement Package; which encompasses six programs: Teacher Development Program, Curriculum Aligned to student Assessment and Examinations, Ethics Program, Management and Administration Program (MAP), Information Communication Technology, and Program Coordination and Monitoring Evaluation, to develop the education system of the country. **(Recommendation 84 and 87)**

Health

52. Considerable progress has been made to improve the provision of health services in Ethiopia during the past two decades. With regards to mobilizing communities for the provision of the health extension package, the primary focus was directed towards women groups. As part of the initiative to assign two health extension workers (HEW) per rural Kebele, a total of 34,604 health extension workers were deployed across the country in 2011/12. To scale up the implementation of the health extension package, "Health Development Army" mainly composed of women was established to work together with Health extension workers. These community-level volunteers are trained by the health extension workers to focus more intensively on sparking local behavior change. Primary health care services coverage reached 96% in 2010/11. The pentavalent vaccine coverage and full immunization of infant coverage has increased from 82% in 2009/10 to 84.7% in 2010/11 and from 72.3% in 2009/10 to 74.5% in 2010/11 respectively. **(Recommendation 77)**

53. The Government devised various strategies, packages and action plans that have helped to ensure the achievement of MDGs regarding the reduction of child and maternal mortality rate. The antenatal care provided for mothers has increased from 31% in 2009/10 to 97.4% in 2012/13. The post-natal service coverage for mothers also increased from 34% in 2009/10 to 50.5% in 2012/13, the percentage of births attended by skilled health personal increased from 15.7% in 2009/10 to 23.1 in 2012/13. By the end of the year 2012, 812 ambulances were distributed to all Regions, and the Government has also allocated more than 681 million birr to purchase and distribute contraceptive drugs and medical equipment. **(Recommendation 76)**

54. The country's under-five mortality rate (UMR) , has steadily declining from 211 deaths per 1000 live births in 1990 to 88 deaths per 1000 live births in 2010. The Infant mortality rate (IMR) has also declined from 97 in 2000/01 to 59 per 1000 live births in 2010/11. To improve child health services, significant efforts were also made by increasing pentavalent and measles vaccination coverage. **(Recommendation 76)**

55. The Government undertook reforms in 2009 to address the spread of serious diseases of public health, concern of epidemic potential and disasters of any cause in general; and established a center called "Public Health Emergency Management Center" at the Federal, Regional, zonal and district level. These centers assisted in controlling the outbreaks and spread of serious diseases in various parts of the country. **(Recommendation 77)**

56. The Government has endorsed the health sector development plan (HSDP) IV that extends to the period between 2010/11 and 2014/15 and focuses on prevention and mitigation of health problems such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, diarrheal diseases and common childhood and maternal illnesses. There has been a marked expansion of comprehensive HIV/AIDS services through decentralization and task shifting. Currently, there are 2,997, 1,901 and 8,67 health facilities providing HIV testing and counseling (HTC), Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) and Anti-Retroviral Treatment (ART) services respectively. In 2009/10 and 2010/11, the number of health posts were 14,192 and 15,095 respectively, which has increased to 15,668 in 2011/12. A total of 1476 health posts were constructed during the first two years of the GTP period. **(Recommendation 78)**

57. Efforts have been made to address the challenge of malaria. In 2011/12 a total of 6.6 million bed nets and 957,100 kg of Deltametrin chemical were distributed and 4.4 million houses were sprayed. The Government has partnered with various countries and international organizations in this effort. In this regard, Ethiopia and the United States of America agreed to a five-year Partnership Framework through the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) outlining a five-year joint strategic framework in line with the objectives of Ethiopia's Health Sector Development Plan IV and the Strategic Plan for Intensifying Multi- Sectored HIV/AIDS Response in Ethiopia 2010–2014. **(Recommendation 80)**

58. The Government has maintained a continuous focus on utilizing financial mechanisms to improve access to and quality of healthcare in the country for nearly two decades. In particular, the FMOH has developed and implemented a comprehensive Healthcare Financing Strategy that emphasizes the importance of strong coordination and harmonization between development partners and the Government. In close collaboration with development partners, the Federal Ministry of Health has made significant progress to realize the goal of "One plan, one budget, and one report". Accordingly, the MDG priority pooled fund has increased from 17 million USD in 2009/2010 to USD 110.7 million in 2013/14. **(Recommendation 79)**

Groups in need of special protection

Women

59. The protection of women and children has been given priority both at the Federal and Regional States level. It has introduced strategies to promote gender mainstreaming in all sectors. The GTP and the sector development plan for women and children have included policy priorities for womens' economic empowerment, their participation in political and decision-making process. It is focused on improvement of the health status of women, the protection of women and girls from discriminatory attitudes, harmful traditional practices and violence; improvement of quality of life for women and girls through their active engagement and participation in environmental protection and management. All Government institutions have revitalized their structure by setting up departments focused on women's affairs. The Government has established the Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs to steer the women affairs at the Cabinet level. **(Recommendation 23)**

Empowerment of women

60. The Government has mainstreamed gender issues in different national policies: in health, education and training, HIV AIDS, population and other sectoral policies. Moreover, the issuance of the National Action Plan on Gender and Development aims at combating discrimination and ensures that gender is fully considered and incorporated in the annual plans of all sectors. **(Recommendation 19 and 23)**

Economic empowerment

61. The Government has adopted Women Focus Growth and Transformation Strategy (2010/11-2014/15), and National Gender Inclusive Guideline to encourage and promote women's participation. The Government has promoted women's entrepreneurship development by providing training and facilitating access to both credit and markets. The Government has promoted Women Development and Change Package and Micro - Finance job creation. In 2010/11, more than 101 micro and small-scale businesses owned and operated by women grew into medium-scale enterprises. Credit and saving services were available for more than half a million women in 2010/11. Women have access to land and credit unions. By the end of the year 2010/11, 1,072546 women benefitted from microfinance enterprises and 50% of employment opportunities are reserved for women. Land possession by women has increased: 28% of rural land owners are women and 30% of the share of public housing was reserved for women. **(Recommendation 38)**

Political participation

62. The level of political participation by women in Ethiopia has increased significantly. The number of women who ran for office and the total number of female voters in the 2010 elections were 7% and 47.8% respectively. Women now hold 19% of positions in the Executive Organ at the Federal level. The elected women members of the HPR between the years 2000–2005 were around 42 (7.7%). In the years 2005-2010, the number of seats occupied by women have increased significantly to 117 (22%) in HPR and 21 (18.75%) in the House of Federation. Currently the number of women members in the HPR reached 27.9%, and 16.5% in the Executive. **(Recommendation 20 and 24)**

Social empowerment

63. Associations that focus on issues of women are established, including Women Affairs Standing Committees in the House of People's Representatives, and similar associations have been established in Regional States, Weredas and Kebeles to improve the social status of women and ensure their participation in decision-making structures. These associations aims to assist women in handling daily challenges, such as domestic violence, usage of contraceptives and discussions on their challenges and offered them trainings on how to resolve their problems by themselves. **(Recommendation 20)**

Measures taken to eradicate any form of violence against women (VAW) and children

64. Aiming to raise awareness about the recommendations made in the report, the Government disseminated throughout the regions the relevant, including the National Gender Audit and Gender Analysis, the Gender Analysis, Gender Audit Guidelines and the Official Version Gender Audit. **(Recommendation 19 and 26)**

65. The Government launched awareness creation and mobilization campaigns on womens' social and political rights and gender mainstreaming analysis. These campaigns were held during national events focused on the social, economic, physical and psychological impact of VAW and gender based violence (GBV). Religious leaders also conducted public discussions to prevent VAW. A national assessment was conducted at the country level to evaluate the extent of violence and the outcome has helped in designing programs, strategies and appropriate measures to be taken. **(Recommendation 25, 29 and 30)**

66. Capacity building workshops were also held for judicial bodies concerning GBV, to ensure that appropriate measures are taken. A special manual was prepared and a special team was set up to follow up on the investigation and prosecution of sexual violence crimes. Moreover, 1 in 4 prosecutors were appointed in every prosecution office as a special prosecutor to exclusively handle cases related with VAW and GBV. **(Recommendation 34)** In addition, a crisis center for victims of sexual violence was set up in the year 2012 in Addis Ababa whereby victims of sexual violence are provided with a trio of services: physical, psychological and legal support as well as pro bono services. Based on this bench mark, there is a plan open similar centers in different parts of the country where deemed necessary. **(Recommendation 31)**

67. The National Strategy on Elimination of Harmful Traditional Practices was issued in 2012 and distributed in Regional States and City Administrations. A national coordination body, composed of Governmental offices was created to cooperate in combating all forms of VAW. The Government enacted the Revised Sentencing Guidelines containing specific measures in support of women's rights and curbing GBV. The Government is working closely with the Women's Federation to ensure that appropriate measures are being taken against the perpetrators of GBW. **(Recommendation 44, 45 and 47)**

68. The Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs in collaboration with UNICEF established a centre for the investigation and prosecution of violence against children at the First Instance Court in Addis Ababa. The two Ministries provides psychological and legal advice for victims before they appear in court. Prevention and rehabilitation projects are being implemented in the regional capital cities in collaboration with the UN, international and domestic NGOs to assist and rehabilitate the victims of sexual violence and child labour exploitation. The Government has established a Child Care Centre to give psychiatric and medical services for victims of sexual violence. Child protection units are established in Addis Ababa, Dire Dawa, Adama, Dessie, Awassa, Mekele and Gonder to combat violence against children. **(Recommendation 31)**

69. A national coordinating body, which constitutes judicial administration organs, has been established to work with the community regarding violence against children, the legal regime and its effects. Different measures were taken to make the investigation and prosecution of offenders very effective. Victim Friendly Benches are established in Addis Ababa, Adama, and Awassa. A number of juvenile justice offices at Regional and Federal Courts are established to give free legal aid service and psychiatric services for victims. Child justice and rehabilitation centres are under operation. These activities helped to reduce violence against children. **(Recommendation 41(A), 44 and 45)**

Measures taken to eradicate harmful traditional practices

70. FGM, abduction, early marriage and other harmful traditional practices are all punishable by the Criminal Law. The Government has established a Forum, which constitutes the Ministry of Justice, Police and Courts to deal with harmful traditional practices and sexual violence.

Female genital mutilation (FGM)

71. The HPR has allocated an independent budget for the Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs to combat FGM. A national strategy and action plan on the elimination of harmful traditional practices and female genital mutilation is adopted and has been distributed to the regional states and cities administrations. **(Recommendation 27 and 32)**

72. The Government has created programs to disseminate information and experience sharing between the Regional States to allow them share experience. Members of the law enforcement community and judges have also benefitted from these activities. **(Recommendation 28)**

73. Public discussions and the media have played a great role in combating harmful traditional practices in general and female genital mutilation in particular. A number of television and radio programs broadcasted on the deleterious psychological, social and physical harms of FGM and a national campaign on harmful traditional practices on the international FGM day and children's day has also helped the effort. **(Recommendation 33)**

Early marriage

74. The Government has taken measures to protect the rights of women and girls by implementing laws concerning the minimum marital age, regardless of whether the marriage is arranged, forced, or voluntary. The Federal Revised Family Code requires the minimum age of marriage to be 18. **(Recommendation 21)**

75. The Revised Criminal Code imposes 3–7 years of imprisonment on those violating the minimum marriageable age. A National Committee on the Elimination of Harmful Traditional Practices is established and is implementing the National Action Plan to Eliminate Forced Marriage, Arranged Marriage And Early Marriage. A project to benefit 200,000 children and adults and to eliminate early marriage is under implementation in Amhara Regional State where early marriage is most prevalent. Awareness creation and community discussions activities on actions to benefit and promote the welfare of the young girls are being undertaken. TV and radio programs on the negative effects of early and forced marriage are being broadcasted. **(Recommendation 39)**

Measures taken to combat trafficking of women

76. The Government has given significant emphasis to combat trafficking in women. The Government has established a National Council to Combat Trafficking in Persons, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister, in June 2011. The Council is composed of senior

Government officials, religious leaders, eminent personalities from various social institutions and civil society organizations. Regional States have also created Councils at the Regional, Woreda and Kebele levels. These Councils have been entrusted with the task of combating human trafficking in all its forms. The Council established a National Task Force to lead mass mobilization in the fight against human trafficking and prosecute human traffickers. A series of public discussions were held on the effects of human trafficking especially of women and children. Human Trafficking Control centres are established in Amhara and Southern Nation Nationalities and Peoples Regional States and some parts of Addis Ababa. The Government is implementing an action plan in cooperation with neighbouring countries, on measures to be taken to curtail illegal migration and combat human trafficking The Government has also established Reception Centres around border posts, for victims of trafficking to provide advice, first aid and other services and return victims to their families. **[Recommendation 35]**

77. The Federal Police Commission has directed its efforts to bringing perpetrators of this crime to justice. Some were found guilty and were sentenced from 5–15 years of imprisonment. As deterrent and to ensure the protection of the rights of women and children, the Revised Federal Supreme Court Sentencing Guideline No. 2/2013 was issued to increase the level and rank on crimes committed against women. **[Recommendation 36]**

Children

Discrimination against vulnerable girls

78. The Government has established Children Rights Committees (CRC) at Federal, Regional States and zonal levels. It gives appropriate support to the CRCs to enable them to achieve their duties of supervising the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

79. Child welfare is one of the priority areas of the Government. It is committed to improving the welfare of children and protect their rights and has adopted a national plan of action to combat any form of discrimination against children. Children's parliaments have been established at various levels. The Government supported these parliaments to help children advance their rights. **(Recommendation 19 and 41 b)**

Violence against children

80. The Government is taking action to prevent violence against children and labour exploitation of children. The Government has been implementing policies and laws in cooperation with non-governmental organizations working on children. The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs' has adopted a National Action Plan (2011–2018) to prevent labour exploitation children and enacted a Directive to implement the Labour Proclamation to protect the rights and welfare of the child. A National Steering Committee is also established to give directions, strategies and recommendations on sexual violence, child labour and exploitation and rehabilitation of victims. **(Recommendation 30, 31, 34, 41)**

81. The Government has established a national coordinating body composed of the Ministry of Justice, other relevant Ministries, the Federal Police Commission, Federal Courts, the Institution of the Ombudsman and the EHRC. It is mandated to coordinate activities by various stakeholders with a view to combat sexual abuse and labour exploitation of children and provide training to the community regarding violence against children, the legal regime and its effects. Its activities have helped reduce violence against children. **(Recommendation 32)**

Measures taken to combat child trafficking, sexual exploitation and forced prostitution

82. The Constitution prohibits all forms of slavery and the Revised Criminal Code imposes 5-20 years of imprisonment and financial penalties on those found to be engaged in child trafficking. The Government is coordinating its activities with other partners to help citizens, particularly women and children who are victims of trafficking. The Government is also implementing a National strategy to combat the sale and exploitation of children. The ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography is under consideration by the HPR. **(Recommendation 37 and Pending Recommendation 7)**

83. Training to control and prevent child trafficking was provided to security personnel assigned to work around border posts. Members of the Federal and Regional police, and security officials are mandated to bring traffickers to justice. A control mechanism in transport services is in place to check whether children travelling in public transports are with their parents or guardians. **(Recommendation 35, 36 and 49)**

84. A team of special prosecutors who work on violence and exploitation of children was set up at various levels. Social workers are employed to work with the prosecutors to give psychological advice to the victims of sexual exploitation. A group of lawyers that are working in close cooperation with the police have been providing free legal aid service on civil cases to victims of sexual abuse and exploitation who cannot afford to pay for proper legal service. Special benches are established in courts to try cases related with the sale and exploitation of children without delay. Manuals on how to combat the sale of children for prostitution and sexual violence are distributed to the regions. In many instances, the courts have imposed imprisonment ranging from 5-15 years on offenders found guilty of child trafficking. **(Recommendation 35, 36 and 37)**

Measures taken with regard to problems associated with street children

85. The Government, in collaboration with civil society, is implementing a program to reintegrate street children with their families and provide them skills and vocational trainings to enable them reintegrated with the society. Relevant Government bodies, NGOs, and community organizations are working to prevent children from leaving their families and to live in the street. **(Recommendation 40)**

Measures taken to prevent recruitment of children in the armed forces

86. The Federal and Regional Police Commissions and the Ministry of National Defence have put in place laws, which set 18 as the minimum age for recruitment, in line with international standards. Any person below the age of 18 would not be enrolled in national defence or police forces. The ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflicts is under consideration by the HPR. **(Recommendation 42 and Pending Recommendation 8)**

The right of children to food

87. In order to provide a balanced nutrition, the Government has adopted a community based Revised National Nutrition Program (NNP) to reduce the magnitude of malnutrition. The NNP targets the most vulnerable children under the age of 5, particularly those below the age 2. Ethiopia has also adopted the international code of marketing on Breast-milk substitutes to improve the health and nutrition of infants and young children. **(Recommendation 68)**

88. Community based nutrition services have been implemented in many of Regional States. Regular supervisions were held with the view to advising mothers on the proper nutrition for their children. A resource mapping is created to coordinate their efforts with the national nutrition program and use their technical and financial resources. For this purpose, a national nutrition technical committee is established to work in collaboration with UNICEF, the World Bank and Save the Children. There were regular follow-ups on the identification of children in malnutrition and medicine distribution such as Vitamin A and intestinal parasite tablets were conducted. Accordingly 10,961,345 children out of 11,801,211(93%) between 6 and 59 months received vitamin A supplements in 2012/13. In the same year, 7,205,588 out of 7,843,520 (94%) between the age of 2-5 were able to obtain intestinal parasitic medicines. In the same year 290,352 children with acute malnutrition obtained health services. In order to prevent lack of nutrients in foods, vitamin enriched cooking oil and wheat flour with vitamin A and iodinated salt were distributed to children. **(Recommendation 72)**

Establishing credible birth registration system

89. The Constitution guarantees children the right to name and nationality. The registration of vital events such as birth, marriage and death were undertaken by municipalities. The Government has set up a framework for Civil Registration and National Identification cards across the country.

90. In line with the revised Family Code that calls for the enactment of legislation on civil registration, the HPR enacted the new law based on the United Nations' methodological guidelines and standards of civil registration. It provides for a compulsory registration of births within 90 days following the date of birth unless there is a sufficient cause for delay. **(Recommendation 43)**

Migrant workers, internally displaced persons (IDP) and refugees

91. The ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Member of their Families is underway. The Government has signed bilateral Labor Agreements with three countries in the Middle East and has also planned to sign additional agreements with the remaining countries in the region. It has also a plan to assign labor attaches, working exclusively on the affairs of migrants in some of the Ethiopian embassies abroad in order to strengthen the protection of the rights of migrants. **(Recommendation 1)**

92. Ethiopia is a signatory to the African Union Convention for the Protection of and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons in Africa. The Government has implemented a Disaster Risk Management (DRM), which is anchored in reducing multi-hazard disaster risks, vulnerabilities and impacts of potential disasters. The DRM is community focused and establishes clear organizational roles from the community to federal level. The Government is in the process of finalizing a DRM policy and strategy framework on prevention, mitigation and preparedness, disaster response and early recovery and rehabilitation. The system will build the resilience of communities and will lead to a substantial reduction in losses of lives and social, economic and environmental assets due to disaster. The Government also strives to ensure a balanced development in the regions on the basis of equity; by providing economical subsidy and other empowerment mechanisms. **(Recommendation 41 (c) and 88)**

93. Ethiopia hosts 435,581 refugees from neighboring countries and 2,556 refugees from different countries are living in 18 refugee camps. The Government is committed to protecting the rights of refugees and ensuring humane treatment. The Refugees Proclamation No. 409 of 2004 protects the rights of refugees and asylum seekers consistent with international obligations of the country. The National Intelligence and Security

Service issued a manual and detailed procedure on the provision of different services addressing the needs of refugees and asylum seekers. Moreover, the Refugee Rehabilitation and Protection Committee was set up to protect the rights of refugees and facilitate the procedures for receiving refugees and asylum seekers on the basis of Standard Operating Procedure. A voluntary return program has been implemented in cooperation with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). **(Recommendation 89)**

94. The Government, in cooperation with UNHCR and World Food Program, is distributing food ration monthly in the refugee camps. It cooperates with UNHCR (allocates annual budget), international organizations and other partners, to further strengthen refugees' protection for financial and technical support. **(Recommendation 90)**

95. The Government, in cooperation with UNHCR and other stakeholders, has also undertaken activities to protect the rights of women and children in the refugee camps, including awareness creation. Administration of Refugees Returnees Affairs has provided alternative power sources to lighting in the camps to help in the prevention of violence against women. Organizational structures were created to enable women refugees to participate on the prevention of GBV. Community Police was set up from the refugees in all 18 refugee camps to protect the rights of refugees. Social workers in every camp educate and consult the survivors where they could take their cases and gender clubs were being instituted in every school for refugees, which have helped the efforts in combating gender based violence.

96. The Government has prepared Standard Operating Procedure, to prevent sexual violence and protect victims. In every camp, zone and in the capital city, a task force composed of Governmental organizations and NGOs was set up and discusses the challenges and possible solutions monthly. The Government provides all kinds of support in the camps to the victims of violence and appropriate punishment was taken against perpetrators. Moreover, whenever it is believed that the victims' safety is threatened in the camps, the Government has established temporary safe houses until the issue is properly dealt with. **(Recommendation 41(c))**

Human rights education and awareness creation

Educating security and law enforcement authorities

97. A wide range of efforts has been undertaken by the Government to disseminate human rights to prosecutors, the police, prison administrators and members of the military. The prosecutor's office has undertaken a series of trainings on basic human rights protection. Trainings have also been provided to prosecutors and members of police force on the manner of handling investigations without infringing upon the human rights of suspects. Special attention was given to creating awareness on the human rights of women, children and persons with disabilities. Different media instruments have been effectively utilized for this purpose. The Government has also included human rights legal education in projects working on women and children's issues. **(Recommendation 7)**

98. A series of awareness creation campaigns were held on citizens' Constitutional rights, levels and procedures of lodging complaints in case of violation of rights and on the functions and powers of the Institution of the Ombudsman were undertaken. Additional capacity building trainings were organized for law enforcement authorities, heads of grievance hearing committees in different Government institution. The trainings focused on good governance, the limits of powers and functions of the institutions, and handling of grievances. Volunteers have been engaged in further entrenching the awareness creation at different levels of the society. **(Recommendation 48)**

Awareness-raising campaigns concerning human rights

99. Moreover, the laws of the country are drafted with the participation of people, and there are additional measures taken to further consolidate participation and hence create awareness on human rights. The NHRAP has put in place a mechanism for citizens' participation and awareness creation on the protection of different human rights. The translation of international human rights instruments in to different national languages has helped enhance awareness of the international human rights instruments. **(Recommendation 8)**

Cooperation with the international community

100. Ethiopia has been cooperating with the international community in ensuring the protection, respect and fulfillment of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. Furthermore, Ethiopia has cooperated with private agencies in strengthening the accessibility of primary and secondary education for all. **(Recommendation 12, 13, 92, 93, 94 and 95)**

101. Ethiopia, in collaboration with various international inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, *inter alia*, UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF, has implemented programs on the protection, respect and fulfillment of the right to food and health. The Government facilitated the entry of such organization into the country and they have been working together including in the areas where there are conflicts. **(Recommendation 72)**

102. Ethiopia received technical and developmental assistance from the international community. It has obtained assistance from UN Women, ILO, and OHCHR since 2009. In addition to these intergovernmental organizations, it has also acquired developmental and technical assistance from partners and other non-governmental organizations, *inter alia*. **(Recommendation 92, 93, 94 and 95)**

103. Ethiopia invited the Special Rapporteur of the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights on Freedom of Expression and Access to information in Africa and it served as a chairman of the meeting which was conducted from August 29-September 1, 2011 in Nairobi, Kenya. Moreover, the delegates of the EHRC visited and shared experience with higher officials of Human Rights Commission and other concerned institutions of South Africa, Germany, Austria, Philippines, Jordan and Poland. **(Recommendation 12, 13, 15, 17 and 18)**

104. The Government continued its dialogue with other States and as a member of the Human Rights Council. It has also participated in the meeting of the United Nations Girls Education Initiative and it has given an explanation on the status of Women's right protection in Ethiopia. Similarly, Ethiopia has participated in the adoption of the Kampala Convention on IDPs. **(Recommendation 12, 13, 15, 16 and 17)**

105. Moreover, the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Association and Assembly, the Special Rapporteur on Torture and the Independent Expert on foreign debt have visited Ethiopia in 2011, 2013 and 2011 respectively. The chairpersons of UN treaty bodies held their annual meeting in Addis Ababa, from 25-29 June of 2012, held discussions with various senior officials on the Government's endeavors to protect human rights in the country. **(Recommendation 12, 13, 15, 17 and 18)**

106. The EHRC has submitted application to the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions. Ethiopia has also become a member of the International Ombudsman Institution and the African Ombudsman and Mediators Association. **(Recommendation 12 and 13)**

Best practices

107. The National Human Right Action Plan is designed to ensure the full implementation of fundamental and democratic rights, which are guaranteed under the Constitution and human right treaties ratified by Ethiopia. This will enable the nation to conduct human rights protection and promotion activities in a coordinated and effective manner.

Challenges in the promotion and protection of human rights in Ethiopia

108. Some of the challenges facing the country in this regard include poverty, resource constraints, lack of capacity, and climate change impacts. The diverse and complex nature of the nation makes it difficult to create uniform strategies and programs for the promotion and protection of human rights in all regions.

Request for technical assistance

109. In its endeavor to enhance the promotion and protection of human rights in a sustained manner Ethiopia has been looking for technical assistance in capacity development for staff of relevant Federal and Regional institutions and in implementing the human rights instruments ratified by Ethiopia and their dissemination.